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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE DETECTION SURVEY OF THE NEZPERCE NATIONAL FOREST, IDAHO

by

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An aerial forest insect and disease detection survey of the Nezperce National Forest was conducted during August 1971. The following is a resume of the insect and disease conditions as determined by this survey:

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM, Choristoneura occidentalis Free.--Infestation perimeters remain about the same as in 1970 throughout the Forest with the exception of the Snake River area where some new defoliation was detected. Intensity of the infestation has declined generally in the lower elevations throughout the Forest.

Several areas of moderate to heavy defoliation, with some tree mortality especially in young Douglas and grand fir stands, was observed from Bargamin Creek to Sheep Creek and in the Slate Creek drainage.

Defoliation intensities around Grangeville and the South Fork of the Clearwater River have increased, except for the upper ends of American River and Newsome Creek. Considerably more tree mortality was observed in Newsome Creek this year than in 1970.

Infestations have declined in the upper Selway and Moose Creek area. The Meadow Creek infestation remains static.

A total of 1,337,000 acres showed aerially visible defoliation in 1970 on the Nezperce National Forest (Fig. 1).

PINE BUTTERFLY, Neophasia menapia (F. & F.)--Pine butterfly defoliation on ponderosa pine was detected on 4,200 acres in the Salmon River breaks from Sheep Creek to Riggins. This infestation has been described in detail in an earlier report (Tunnock, 1971)[1/].

DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.--Douglas-fir beetle activity has increased in Slate Creek, the upper reaches of Skookumchuck, Whitebird Creek, and between John's Creek and Grouse Creek. For the most part, new attacked trees were adjacent to old infestation centers. Several new infestations were detected northwest of Corral Hill. Douglas-fir beetle infestations between the Salmon River and the Snake River remain about the same as last year with new attacks adjacent to old chronic infestation centers (Fig. 2).

PINE ENGRAVER, Ips pini (Say), and mountain and western pine beetle infestations in ponderosa pine were quite scattered in small groups and single trees, except for Robbins Creek in the Salmon River breaks which had approximately 50 new attacks that appeared to be made by mountain pine beetle.

1/ Tunnock, Scott. Status of the pine butterfly on the Nezperce National Forest, Idaho - 1971. USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Division of State and Private Forestry, Forest Insect and Disease Report No. 71-12.

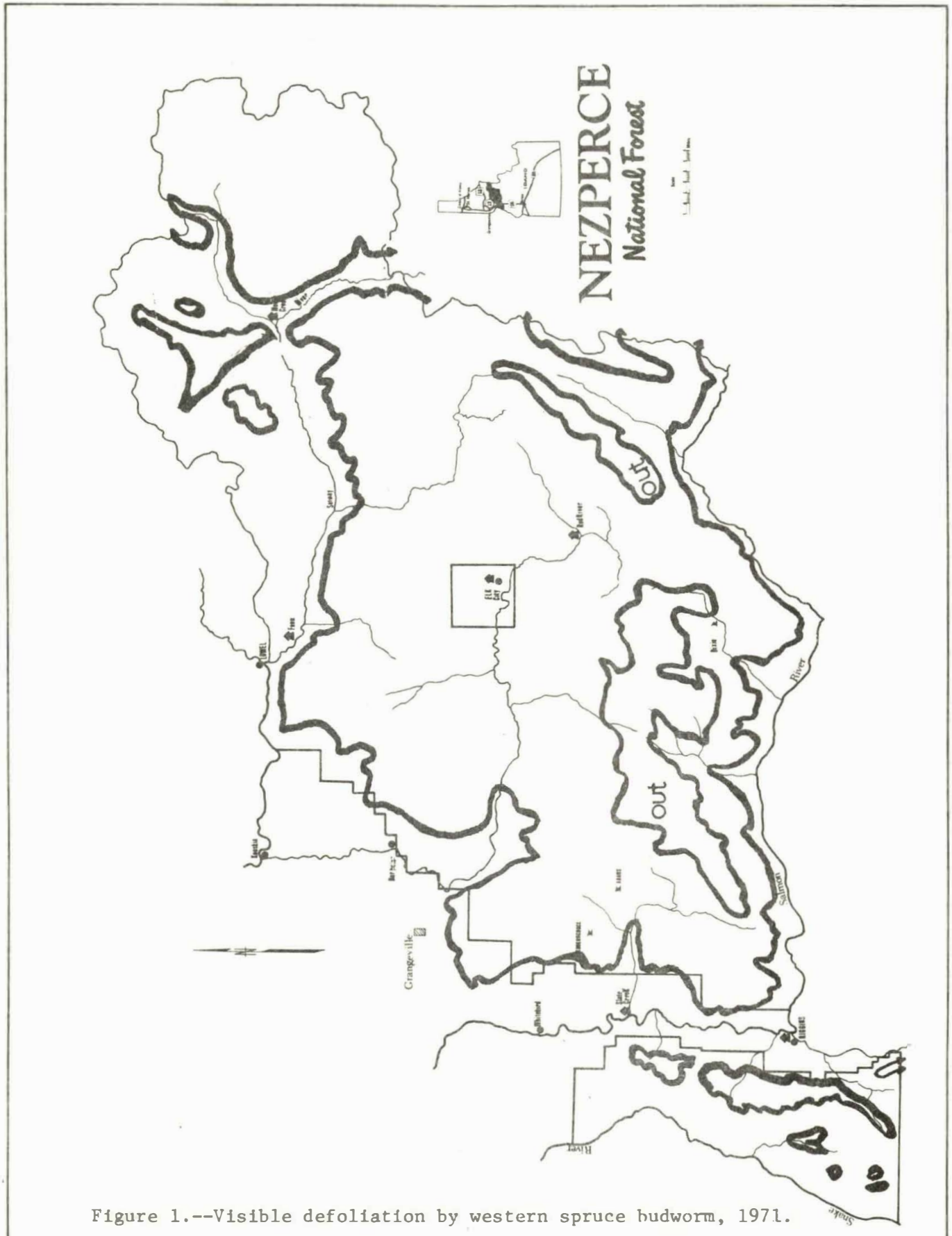

Figure 1.--Visible defoliation by western spruce budworm, 1971.

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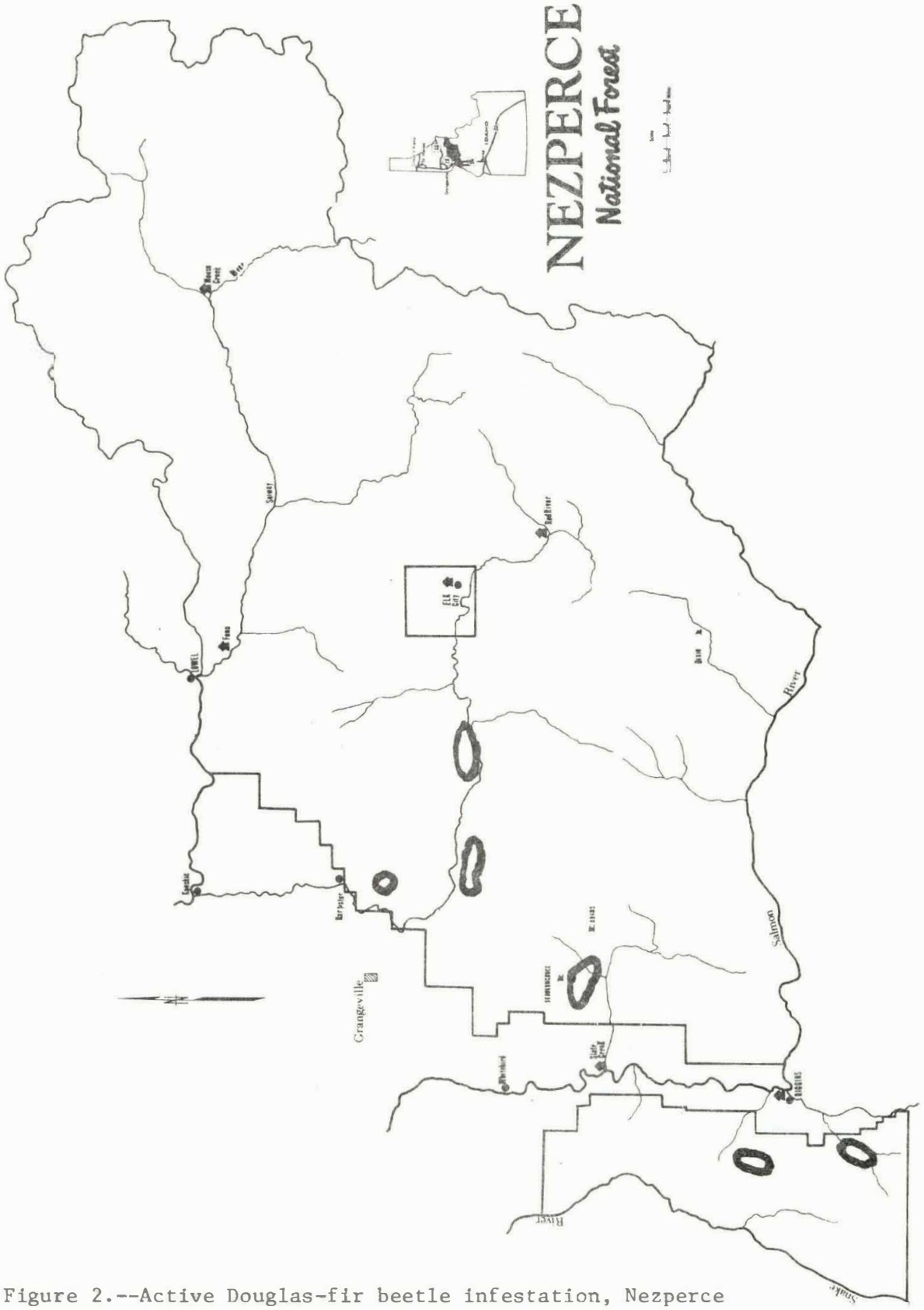

Figure 2.--Active Douglas-fir beetle infestation, Nezperce National Forest, 1971.